Public Works (1910) Department.

G.O., No. 849

DATED 21. 3. 1910.

The Notes
in this G.O. have been printed.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Storage reservoir in the Cardamom Hills of Travancore.

Ordering, with remarks, that the preliminary investigation of the project for ~~constructing~~ a — be proceeded with.

21/3

D. [illegible]

Indexed.
22/3/10.

P. W. 9.
[1,250—22-7-09.]

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.

Recd.	1910.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 84 I., 21st March 1910.

Storage Reservoir in the Cardamon Hills of Travancore

Ordering, with remarks, that the preliminary investigation of the project for a — be proceeded with.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 84 I., DATED 21ST MARCH 1910.

[SUBJECT.—*Cardamon Hills project, Madura district.*]

From the Resident in Travancore and Cochin, Dis. No. 440, *dated* 12*th October* 1909.

Under Secretary—

The note by Chief Engineer for Irrigation in G.O., No. 471 I., dated 19th October 1908, gives the outline of the Cardamon Hills project suggested by Mr. Medlicott when he was Superintending Engineer, VI Circle. In the above Government Order the Resident was asked to obtain the permission of the Travancore Darbar to make the necessary preliminary investigation of the project.

The objections raised by the Darbar to the execution of the project are detailed in paragraph 2 of the Resident's letter. In the face of these objections it does not seem worth while to carry out the further investigation of the project. Before abandoning it, however, the Resident's letter may, it is submitted, be referred to the Superintending Engineer for remarks.

J.M.L.

For orders.

M.S.V.
16-11-09.

M.
16-11-09.

Objections (3) and (4) of the Travancore Darbar are interesting in the light of their recent claim for flood damages.

J. M. LACEY.
19-11-09.

The objections raised by the Diwan are not such as should interfere with the preliminary investigation of what is likely to be a promising project.

(1) and (2) can be overcome by paying suitable compensation.

(3) Difficulties of navigation of the Periyár river and salt water coming higher up the backwaters. The two objections which are put forward in the same paragraphs seem inconsistent. If the salt water comes higher up the backwater taking the place of fresh water, navigation will not be interfered with. If navigation is interfered with the salt water will not injure the cultivation. As a matter of fact the areas impounded and proposed to be impounded are a very small fraction of the catchment area of the Periyár and, I believe, do not receive its heaviest rainfall and no appreciable difference would be felt on the coast. The same remark applies to objections (4) and (5). Even if every possible project were carried out for the benefit of Madura district, there would still be plenty of water for inundating tracts and for irrigation near the coast.

Preliminary investigations may be ordered to be undertaken and the river gauged. The Superintending Engineer should submit a proposition statement for the establishment necessary for this purpose.

H. E. CLERK.
19-11-09.

"(3) By the diversion of the water by the existing Periyár dam there has been already a substantial decrease of water in the Periyár river, and if a further diversion of water from the Periyár basin is effected, the difficulties of navigation in the Periyár river will be increased; the salt water from the backwaters will come up higher and higher to the injury of cultivation in the Travancore and Cochin States.

"(4) There are large areas in Travancore—and also in Cochin—which depend for their fertility on the annual inundation by the waters of the Periyár river, and these lands will be adversely affected by any further diminution of the flood water.

"(5) It is believed that the water proposed to be diverted could be advantageously used for irrigation in Travancore itself; for, though the upper basin of the Periyár river is *at present* undeveloped, there may come a time when it will be occupied and when the water may be required."

3. The Diwan advisedly puts forward these objections now, so that the Government may take them into consideration before sanctioning expenditure on an investigation in regard to a project to the execution of which the Darbar in its own interests may not see its way to agree.

Order—No. 84 I., dated 21st March 1910.

The Government consider that the preliminary investigation of the project should be proceeded with.

2. The Superintending Engineer will be instructed to submit a proposition statement for the establishment required for taking sufficient preliminary levels to decide whether the scheme is practicable and, if so, whether it is worth while to set up a gauge for obtaining data of the supplies available for impounding.

3. The Resident in Travancore and Cochin is requested to explain to the Darbar that this Government propose nothing more at present than preliminary investigation.

(True Extract.)

C. A. Smith,
Joint Secretary to Govt., P. W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
,, Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Resident in Travancore and Cochin (through the Political Department).

Forwarded to the

(By Order.)

Deputy Registrar.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 84 I., DATED 21ST MARCH 1910.

[SUBJECT.—*Cardamon Hills project, Madura district.*]

From the Resident in Travancore and Cochin, Dis. No. 440, *dated* 12*th October* 1909.

Under Secretary—

The note by Chief Engineer for Irrigation in G.O., No. 471 I., dated 19th October 1908, gives the outline of the Cardamon Hills project suggested by Mr. Medlicott when he was Superintending Engineer, VI Circle. In the above Government Order the Resident was asked to obtain the permission of the Travancore Darbar to make the necessary preliminary investigation of the project.

The objections raised by the Darbar to the execution of the project are detailed in paragraph 2 of the Resident's letter. In the face of these objections it does not seem worth while to carry out the further investigation of the project. Before abandoning it, however, the Resident's letter may, it is submitted, be referred to the Superintending Engineer for remarks.

J.M.L.

For orders.

M.S.V.
16-11-09.

M.
16-11-09.

Objections (3) and (4) of the Travancore Darbar are interesting in the light of their recent claim for flood damages.

J. M. LACEY.
19-11-09.

The objections raised by the Diwan are not such as should interfere with the preliminary investigation of what is likely to be a promising project.

(1) and (2) can be overcome by paying suitable compensation.

(3) Difficulties of navigation of the Periyár river and salt water coming higher up the backwaters. The two objections which are put forward in the same paragraphs seem inconsistent. If the salt water comes higher up the backwater taking the place of fresh water, navigation will not be interfered with. If navigation is interfered with the salt water will not injure the cultivation. As a matter of fact the areas impounded and proposed to be impounded are a very small fraction of the catchment area of the Periyár and, I believe, do not receive its heaviest rainfall and no appreciable difference would be felt on the coast. The same remark applies to objections (4) and (5). Even if every possible project were carried out for the benefit of Madura district, there would still be plenty of water for inundating tracts and for irrigation near the coast.

Preliminary investigations may be ordered to be undertaken and the river gauged. The Superintending Engineer should submit a proposition statement for the establishment necessary for this purpose.

H. E. CLERK.
19-11-09.

Under Secretary—

A draft order is submitted which, if approved, may be forwarded to the Revenue Department for acceptance or remarks.

M.S.V.
24–11–09.

S.S.
24–11–09.

J.M.L.
25–11–09.

H.E.C.
25–11–09.

To the Revenue Department u.o.

Revenue Department.

Assistant Secretary—

Reference is solicited to the remarks of the Darbar in paragraph 3 of the letter: "The Diwan advisedly puts forward these objections now so that the Government "may take them into consideration before sanctioning expenditure on an investigation "in regard to a project to the execution of which the Darbar in its own interests "may not see its way to agree". But as the Public Works Department (Irrigation) are of opinion that the Darbar's objections are not such as should interfere with the preliminary investigation, the draft order may, it is submitted, be accepted in Revenue.

S.V.R.
27-11-09.

B.V.R.
26–11–09.

P.T.S.
26–11–09.

Secretary—

S. Venkataramadas.
27–11–09.

Is the site of the dam and the area that would form the reservoir in Travancore territory? I can find no information on these points in the papers. Mr. Medlicott's inspection notes merely say that the catchment area belongs to Travancore.

A. G. Cardew.
29–11–09.

Assistant Secretary—

The Public Works Department (Irrigation) may, it is submitted, be requested to furnish the information referred to in the Secretary's note above as there is nothing in this file to show where the site of the dam and the area that would form the reservoir are.

B.V.R.
2–12–09.

P.T.S.
3–12–09.

S.V.R.
4–12–09.

To the Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

Public Works Department.
(Irrigation Branch).

Under Secretary—

The site of the proposed dam is marked in the map annexed to the G.O., No. 471 I., dated 19th December 1908. As the watershed which separates the Cumbum valley from the basin affected by the project in question is the western limit of British territory, the site of the dam as well as the area that would form the reservoir are in Travancore territory only.

N.S.
14-12-09.

Please see atlas sheet below.

J.M.L.
22-12-09.

To the Revenue Department u.o.

Revenue Department.

Assistant Secretary—

Submitted.

B.V.R.
5-1-10.

P.T.S.
5-1-10.

Secretary—

F. Noyce.
6-1-10.

The addresses at the end of the draft order include the " Resident in Travancore and Cochin " and it is therefore presumed that it is intended that the substance of the draft should be communicated to the Darbar. If so, it seems doubtful whether this course is expedient. The examination of the objections raised by the Darbar which is contained in the Chief Engineer's note is not very complete and will not supply the Darbar with any very cogent or persuasive reasons to alter its opinion. On the other hand, the remark contained in paragraph 2 of the draft note on the subject of objections (1) and (2) seems to imply an admission of the correctness of those objections. If it is intended to deal adequately at this stage with the Darbar's difficulties, then, I think, the matter must be more fully gone into and the answer couched in more persuasive and convincing tones. But it does not seem essential at present to make any reply to the objections which the Diwan put forward. Mr. Clerk's note, dated 9th November 1909, is merely written, I presume, to show *this Government* that the Darbar's objections need not interefere with the preliminary investigations of the project. I would suggest that it is unnecessary to communicate that note to the Darbar and it would be sufficient to say that as the Government still think that a detailed investigation of the project is advisable, the Superintending Engineer should submit a proposition statement for the necessary establishment.

A.G.C.
8-1-10.

To the Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

Public Works Department
(Irrigation Branch).

Under Secretary—

Submitted.

S.S.
10-1-10.

Secretary—

J.M.L.
12–1–10.

I agree with Revenue Secretary's opinion. Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, may be asked to send in a proposition statement for establishment for taking sufficient preliminary levels to decide whether it is worth while putting up a gauge on the river.

C. A. Smith.
17–1–10.

Under Secretary—

The draft, as now revised, may be sent to Political for acceptance.

S.S.
20–1–10.

Secretary—

I have altered the draft order. The difficulty may be got over by "quoting" the Chief Engineer for Irrigation's note in the Government Order.

J.M.L.
21–1–10.

This draft won't do. We do not propose at present to make a detailed investigation but only to take sufficient levels, to ascertain if it is worth while putting up a gauge. The draft requires further revision.

C.A.S.
23–1–10.

Under Secretary—

A revised draft note by Chief Engineer for Irrigation with order is submitted for approval.

M.S.V.
24–1–10.

S.S.
25–1–10.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation—

J.M.L.
25–1–10.

I think we had better omit the Chief Engineer for Irrigation's note altogether and merely issue an order as now drafted.

C.A.S.
20–2–10.

Under Secretary—

The draft order is typed and submitted. It may go to Revenue and Political Departments for acceptance.

M.S.V.
21–2–10.

S.S.
21–2–10.

J.M.L.
23–2–10.

C.A.S.
23–2–10.

To the Revenue Department u.o.
,, *Political* ,,

Revenue Department.

Under Secretary—

The draft order may, it is submitted, be accepted in Revenue and the file passed on to Political.

B V.R.
25-2-10.
P.T.S.
28-2-10

Secretary—

F.N.
28-2-10.
A.G.C.
1-3-10.

To the Political Department u.o.

Political Department.

The draft order may, it is submitted, be accepted in Political.

P.deR.
2-3-10.
V.S.M.
3-3-10.

Chief Secretary—

J W. Bhore.
4-3-10.
W. S. Meyer.
6-3-10.

To the Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

Public Works Department
(Irrigation Branch).

Under Secretary—

The draft order may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor.

M.S.V.
8-3-10.
S.S.
8-3-10.

J.M.L.
11-3-10.

Note for His Excellency—

The file relates to the preliminary investigation of a project for a storage reservoir in the Cardamon Hills of Travancore.

The Travancore Darbar were asked to allow us to take levels and make some preliminary investigation in order to ascertain if it is worth while going any further. If these preliminary investigations are sufficiently promising, we propose to fix gauges in the river and collect data of the supply available. The Darbar have given permission although they clearly do not look upon the project with favour. However there is no objection to our collecting data which is all we aim at at present.

Draft order for approval.

C.A.S.
11-3-10.

Draft order approved.

We should, I think, ask the Resident to make it quite clear that we propose nothing more at present than preliminary investigation.

A. L[awley].
14-3-10.

Under Secretary—

The following may perhaps be added as paragraph 3 of the draft: "The "Resident in Travancore and Cochin is requested to explain to the Darbar that this "Government propose nothing more at present than 'preliminary investigation'".

S.S.
15-3-10.

J.M.L.
15-3-10.

Yes this will do.

C.A.S.
15-3-10.

[Issued as G.O., No. 84 I., dated 21st March 1910.]

SUBJECT :— Cardamon Hills Project, Madura District.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION BRANCH.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

again
READ the following

G.O. No. 471 I dated 19-12-08.

Read also

From the Resident in Travancore and Cochin Dis. No. 440 dated 12-10-09.

Order. No. 843 I/21-3-10

The Government consider that the preliminary investigation of the Project should be proceeded with.

2. The Supg. Engineer will be instructed to submit a proposition statement for the establishment required for taking sufficient preliminary levels to decide whether the scheme is practicable and if so whether it is worth while to set up a gauge for obtaining ~~dates~~ data of the supplies available for impounding.

3. The Resident in Travancore & Cochin is requested to explain to the Durbar that this Govt. propose nothing more ~~than~~ at present than preliminary investigation.

23/2/10

To

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Supg. Engineer, VI Circle (M/s Harvey) D 22/3/10
" Examiner, P.W. Accounts.
" Revenue Department.
" Resident in Travancore & Cochin through the Political Department.

Ordinary Press
Print notes

G D — 1 — 6
folios 1 — 13

29.9.44 VI ✓